

Hindu American Foundation's

2025 Holi Toolkit



Hindu American Foundation
hinduamerican.org

2025 Holi Toolkit

What's Inside and How to Use the Holi Toolkit

There are many ways to celebrate Holi and we have developed this toolkit with different communities in mind. We hope you enjoy the activities and lessons about Holi in the years to come!

What's Inside

› Holi Fact Sheet

The basics of Holi presented in an easy and comprehensive manner which can be used as a starting point in learning all about the Festival of Colors

› The Stories of Holi

A reading primer that narrates three of the most popular stories as to why Hindus celebrate Holi

› Celebrating Holi!

An English Language Arts lesson which teachers can integrate into their 4th – 6th grade classrooms

› Holi Haiku

An intercultural activity that encourages creativity through a traditional form of Japanese poetry

› Roy G. Biv Activity

An activity that explains the significance and symbolism of color in Hindu culture and rituals

› Holi Crossword Puzzle

A fun way to test your knowledge



› The Holi Haiku is a writing activity that encourages children to tap into their creative side as they create syllabic poems to summarize what they have learned.

› The Holi Crossword is not just for kids, but a challenging and entertaining way for you to test your knowledge too.

› The Roy G. Biv activity explains the significance of color in Hinduism as well as teaches the basics about hue and pigment.

Celebrating at Home or School

While local temples and community centers may have Holi celebrations that you can bring your family to, there are several activities included in the toolkit that can make teaching about Holi fun with children of all different ages.

› We recommend starting with the Holi Fact Sheet so that you can explain the essential principles of the holiday.

› The Reading Primer explains the three most commonly heard stories about the origins of Holi—this is great to read alongside your child as they learn why Holi has such a special meaning for Hindus.



2025 Holi Toolkit

What's Inside and How to Use the Holi Toolkit

Celebrate Holi by Embracing Spring!

Holi is the Hindu festival of the arrival of Spring. Some ways you can celebrate outside include:

- › Arrange for a field trip to a neighborhood park and volunteer to garden and clean up while making a difference!
- › Take the kids outside and teach them how to draw *rangoli* designs on the ground. You can use the *rangoli* pages from the Holi Toolkit as inspiration. Materials needed: colored chalk.
- › Kids can go outside and throw *gula* and/or water balloons at one another. Materials needed: *gula*, water balloons. Optional: plain white T-shirts for each child. You can make your own natural, eco-friendly *gula* water by following [these instructions from Gnaana](#).

- › Indoor version: Sometimes going outside isn't an option. In that case, keep the fun inside by providing kids with colored confetti, flower petals, and/or silly string to throw at one another.

Celebrating Holi in the Classroom

The Holi Toolkit has several classroom lessons that you can immediately use in your 4-6th grade classroom.

- › To accompany the Holi Fact Sheet, we have also created a Holi PowerPoint Presentation that makes teaching about Holi accessible and comprehensible.
- › The [Color Vowel Chart](#) lesson is an English Language Arts (ELA) lesson that teaches about Holi while helping students with pronunciation of relevant words.

- › If you are looking for a lesson to help explain the basics of color, the Roy G. Biv activity teaches students about the dimensions of color as well as the significance of color in Hinduism.
- › The Holi Haiku and the Holi Crossword are also great supplements to lessons about Holi and can seamlessly be integrated into your classroom.

Celebrating Holi in the Community

- › You can combine Holi with other holidays for a fun interfaith celebration to signify the arrival of spring and starting anew.
- › There are several Holi inspired activities such as various color runs, which incorporate Holi-like elements into a 5K race.
- › Visit our website at hinduamerican.org/holi. It's quick reference site that's easy to share. There's also a link to download this guide on the site.

And don't forget to check out our animated video on Holi on our site and on our YouTube channel: myhaf.org/holi-video



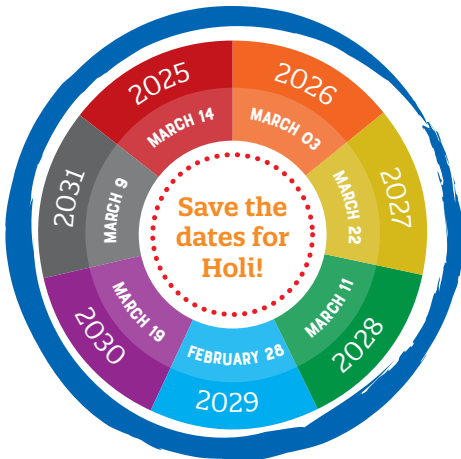
2025 Holi Toolkit

Holi Fact Sheet

Holi is a Hindu festival celebrating the start of spring, which is the season of hope and new beginnings. Often referred to as the “Festival of Colors,” Holi is celebrated around the world and is recognized as a national holiday in some countries with significant Hindu populations.

When is Holi?

The timing of Holi, like other Hindu festivals, is synchronized with the moon, which means that the actual dates vary from year to year. Holi falls on the full moon day (Purnima) between the end of February and the middle of March (month of Phalgun), according to the Hindu lunar calendar.



Who celebrates Holi?

Holi is a Hindu celebration, which originated in ancient India. However, today people of all nationalities, backgrounds and religions celebrate Holi all over the world.

Where is Holi celebrated?

Many Hindu temples and South Asian cultural centers hold Holi celebrations for their members, and festivities are often outside due to the use of colorful powders and water. However, many Hindu temples will also hold religious services inside the temple to honor the Hindu deities¹—Krishna, Radha, and Narasimha..



How is Holi celebrated?

Depending on regional traditions and where you are in the world, Holi can be a multi-day festival or an afternoon celebration. The first evening is known as Holi Purnima (the Holi full moon) and usually involves a bonfire as people gather around to sing and dance in hopes of overcoming negativity by getting rid of unsatisfactory thoughts and deeds from the previous year. On the next day, people of all ages wear white to throw

colored powder (*gulal*) or colored water (*pani*) at one another. In the evening, everyone gets together with their family and friends to enjoy festive foods, sweets, and companionship. Hindu temples are decorated with bright colors and the deities are decorated with glittering jewels and clothing. With a theme of harmony and new beginnings, Holi encourages people to renew our efforts at becoming decent human beings—reflect on our past misdeeds, improve our routines and interactions, and continue making progress in life.

¹ The term 'deities,' as well as several of the deities by name, are used throughout the Toolkit to refer to the Hindu concept of 'Deva' meaning a specific embodiment of the One Supreme Being.



2025 Holi Toolkit

The Stories of Holi

Color Vowel Bank

We suggest previewing this vocabulary list prior to reading the Stories of Holi.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Agni (mustard) : Sanskrit word for fire | Floating (rose) : an item suspended in air | Paint (gray) : to cover a surface |
| Ancient (gray) : very old and historical | Food (blue) : nourishment | Perfect (purple) : the ideal |
| Beats (green) : a rhythm unit | Friends (red) : people with whom you have a mutual bond or affection | Rangoli (rose) : Indian art patterns created on the floor |
| Beauty (blue) : something pleasing to look at | Fun (mustard) : enjoyable or pleasant | Recognize (red) : to identify |
| Bonfire (olive) : large outdoor fire | Gather (black) : to come together | Roasted (rose) : food cooked by long periods of exposure to heat |
| Bountiful (brown) : a large quantity | Gulal (olive) : Sanskrit word for colored powder | Spring (silver) : the season after winter but before summer |
| Celebrate (red) : honor a significant event | Harvest (olive) : the process of gathering crops | Strangers (gray) : people with whom you are not familiar |
| Celebration (gray) : an enjoyable social gathering | Hindu (silver) : a follower of Hinduism | Straw (orange) : dried stalks of grain |
| Cold (rose) : low temperature | Holi Hai (gray) : the greeting used during the celebration of Holi | Subcontinent (olive) : a large, distinguishable part of a continent |
| Coconut (rose) : large, brown, oval fruit with an edible white flesh | Hojlak (rose) : a blend of roasted grains | Theme (green) : a recurring idea |
| Colorful (mustard) : various colors | Legend (red) : a commonly heard traditional story that is not always historical | Toys (turquoise) : objects to play with |
| Companionship (black) : a feeling of friendship | Love (mustard) : a feeling of deep affection | Tradition (silver) : long standing custom or belief |
| Corn (orange) : a vegetable made of kernels | Music (blue) : patterns of rhythmic or vocal sounds | Unsuccessful (red) : something that did not work/failed |
| Decorated (red) : make something look attractive | Namaste (gray) : the Sanskrit greeting used in daily life | Venerate (red) : to spiritually connect or show gratitude to a deity or elder |
| Elephant (red) : a wise, tusked animal | Noisy (turquoise) : making a lot of noise | Wheat (green) : a plant which produces grain |
| Evil (green) : immoral and wicked | Noisemakers (turquoise) : items that make a lot of sound | Worship (purple) : to spiritually connect with or honor a Deity |
| Feelings (green) : an emotional reaction | Offering (olive) : a symbolic contribution of money or an item | |
| Festival (red) : a period of celebration | | |
| First (purple) : preceding others | | |



2025 Holi Toolkit

The Stories of Holi

There are several legends about the origin of why Holi is celebrated. Even though some Hindu communities prefer one story over another, the messages of love, sincerity, and renewal are the same.

The Moral Story: Prahlad and Holika

One of the most popular stories involves the pompous King Hiranyakashipu and his wicked sister Holika. Legend has it that King Hiranyakashipu believed he was all-powerful, omnipotent, and could not be defeated. In fact, he was so proud of himself, he made a law requiring his subjects only worship him and not God. However, his own son, young Prince Prahlad broke this law daily with his prayers to God. Frustrated and angry with his defiant son, the King tried to have Prahlad hurt and even killed, but Prahlad remained unharmed.

Eventually, the King turned to his sister Holika, who had a special power which prevented her from being harmed or burned by *agni* (fire). To help her brother, the King, Holika decided she would take Prahlad into a fire pit and burn the little boy to ashes. While fire would not harm Holika, it would hurt Prahlad. However, God heard Prahlad's prayers to save him and stepped in to prevent Prahlad from being hurt. God then reversed



Holika's powers so that she was burned instead. In this story, Holi reminds Hindus is that no one should do anything by force. Instead, Hindus are reminded that being sincere, and not letting powerful, egotistical people change you, is a human value we should all cultivate.

The Love Story: Krishna and Radha

Many other events happened during the celebration of Holi that made it even more special for Hindus. One of those legends is that of Radha and Krishna.

One day, Radha, the beloved of Krishna, decided did not want to play Holi. This was because all the townspeople would

throw too much color on her, as she was a good friend to everyone, which meant she would not get enough time to play Holi with Krishna. Even though Krishna invited her to his town and assured her that he would make sure that only the two of them would play with one another, she didn't come out of her house to play. Seeing Krishna dejected, his friends left and went to Radha's town to convince her to play: but Radha's friends did not let them in.

A discussion ensued, but it was full of jokes and fun. Radha overheard that Krishna was missing her. She asked their friends whether they'd ensure the two of them could play together, and they all agreed. Happily, they went to the village of Vrindavan, and Radha and Krishna, and all of their friends played a very happy Holi together. When they finished playing Holi as a group of friends together, they returned to their own towns and played Holi with the townspeople too, making sure that everyone could finally have a truly happy Holi.

This story teaches Hindus of the importance of love, working together to find solutions to problems, and the power of friendship.



2025 Holi Toolkit

The Stories of Holi



For many Hindus, celebrating Holi is very much connected with the Hindu tradition they belong to — so it is common to hear songs about the Deities Radha-Krishna, or Uma-Shiva, or Sita-Rama, or Lakshmi-Narasimha. A few Hindu traditions may mark the festival but not actually

celebrate it. However, for those that do, the main way of celebrating Holi is throwing colored powder or flower petals on each-other, and singing/dancing in the springtime sun. This signifies that nature sees all of us as equal regardless of our outward differences, and being inspired by this message, Holi is better known as the “Festival of Love.”

The Harvest Story: Spring Crops

In the rural regions of India, Holi celebrates the beginning of spring harvest. For many in farming communities, Holi signals the end of winter hardship. As many people in India harvest their wheat or lentils in the spring and since there are community elements to Holi, some people liken it to it the American tradition

of Thanksgiving. For others, it aligns more closely with the Jewish tradition of Passover or the Christian festival of Easter due to the themes of renewal and starting fresh.

The significance of Holi comes from a special process in which lentils, wheat, and other grains are roasted together. This special blend is called *holaka*, hence the name Holi. On the eve of Holi, it is customary to light a bonfire and roast grains and corn as an offering for eating and promoting a feeling of companionship and a sense of community among those who are celebrating.



It is important to remember that Holi is a time for fun and celebration with friends, family, and strangers. Color paints the sky, *rangolis* are painted in front of houses, temples, and businesses, children receive new toys, and festive music and beats create a fun-filled noisy atmosphere. There are no formalities with Holi and with music in the air and colored powder floating all around, no one can help but smile at the sight.



2025 Holi Toolkit

The Stories of Holi

Educator's Version

There are several **legends** about the origin of why **Holi** is **celebrated**. Even though some **Hindu** communities prefer one story over another, the messages of **love**, sincerity, and renewal are the same.

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One of the most popular stories involves the **pompous** King Hiranyakashipu and his **wicked** sister Holika. **Legend** has it that King Hiranyakashipu believed he was all-powerful, omnipotent, and could not be defeated. In fact, he was so proud of himself, he made a law requiring his subjects only **worship** him and not God. However, his own son, young Prince **Prahlad** broke this law daily with his prayers to God. Frustrated and angry with his defiant son, the King tried to have Prahlad hurt and even killed, but Prahlad remained unharmed.

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throw too much **color** on her, as she was a good friend to everyone, which meant she would not get enough time to play **Holi** with Krishna. Even though Krishna invited her to his town and assured her that he would make sure that only the two of them would play with one another, she didn't come out of her house to play. Seeing Krishna dejected, his **friends** left and went to Radha's town to convince her to play: but Radha's **friends** did not let them in.

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The significance of **Holi** comes from a special process in which lentils, wheat, and other grains are roasted together. This special blend is called **holaka**, hence the name **Holi**. On the eve of **Holi**, it is customary to light a **bonfire** and roast grains and corn as an **offering** for eating and promoting a feeling of companionship and a sense of community among those who are celebrating.



It is important to remember that **Holi** is a time for **fun** and **celebration** with **friends**, **family**, and **strangers**. **Color** paints the sky, **rangolis** are **Painted** in front of houses, temples, and businesses, children receive new **toys**, and festive **music** and **beats** create a **fun**-filled **noisy** atmosphere. There are no formalities with **Holi** and with **music** in the air and **colored** powder **floating** all around, no one can help but smile at the sight.



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Celebrating Holi!

A culturally rich lesson for elementary school students provided by the Hindu American Foundation and *Color Vowel® Chart*

This lesson introduces 4th – 6th grade students to the Hindu holiday of Holi, also known as the “Festival of Colors.” This lesson has been designed to help students understand why this holiday and festival are an important part of Hindu culture through multiple activities, discussion, and research surrounding the holiday.

- › Grade Level: 4 - 6
- › Subject: ELA, Social Studies
- › Duration: 2 days at 45-60 minutes per day
- › Materials Needed: large chart paper, printouts, colored pencils/crayons/markers, computer/internet for research

Directions

Step 1: Complete the K of the KWL chart

Ask students what they already know about Holi. Facilitate a discussion by asking questions such as:

- › Have you ever heard of Holi?
- › What do you KNOW about Holi?
- › Have you heard of the “Festival of Colors” where people throw colors at each other?
- › What do you WANT to know about Holi? (Teacher: prompt your students with who-what-when-where-why-how. See below for example questions that the student may come up with.)
 - Who celebrates Holi?
 - When does it occur?
 - Where do Holi celebrations happen?
 - Why?

They will complete the “L” part of the chart at the end of the two lessons.

Objectives

- › Describe what Holi is, and where, how, and by whom it is celebrated
- › Recall the events of a Holi legend presented in class
- › Demonstrate confidence in pronouncing new vocabulary words

Step 2: Read through the Holi Fact Sheet and describe the Holi festival to students

Explain what Holi is, where it is celebrated, the cultural and religious significance of the celebrations, and what the celebrations might look like. Continue filling in the KWL chart with things that they want to learn about Holi—have students fill in the W of the KWL chart.

Step 3: Vocabulary preview - for meaning

Preview the vocabulary from The Stories of Holi reading primer with students. Explain the definitions as needed.

Step 4: Group and regroup

Place students into three jigsaw groups. Each group reads one of the three stories from The Stories of Holi reading primer and answers the Celebrating Holi! graphic organizer. Then each member of each group numbers off and everyone regroups according to their number to share the story they read.

- › The Stories of Holi
- › Holi Color Vowel Organizer



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Step 5: Share the stories

Read the stories aloud with students following along and identifying words in the Color Vowel Organizer and in the story.

Step 6: Distribute the Holi coloring sheets

Have students identify the color vowel for the given word in the design (for example, Holi is a ROSE BOAT word). Refer to the Color Vowel Organizer: Celebrating Holi (Educator's Version) as needed. Have students then color that part of the design with a rose-colored (pink) crayon or colored pencil. Repeat with another word, and as many times as needed, until you feel students can complete the task on their own.

Step 7: Complete the graphic organizer

Students will be asked to complete the graphic organizer, which has them summarize what they have learned about Holi. Then encourage them to research this on their own as a homework assignment or in class if there is time.

Step 8: Complete the L part of the KWL chart

To conclude, ask students, "What did you LEARN about Holi?"

Assessment and Evaluation

You will be able to assess the student's ability and understanding of the content through guided questions and informal observations.



2025 Holi Toolkit

Celebrating Holi!

Example Charts

Sample Graphic Organizer

| | Holi: A Moral Story | Holi: A Love Story | Holi: A Harvest Story |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Who | | Radha and Krishna | |
| What | | celebrating beauty and diversity | |
| When | | ancient times | |
| Where | | India | |
| Why | | Important to recognize that all people are beautiful and that love is meant to be celebrated | |
| How | | throwing colors to highlight that all humans should treat one another as equals despite external differences | |
| Rituals | | <i>Rangoli</i> design, throwing colored powder and water | |

Sample KWL Chart

| What I Know | What I Want to Know | What I Learned |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Holi is referred to as the Festival of Colors | When does Holi occur? | Holi is celebrated by Hindus all around the world |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |



2025 Holi Toolkit

Celebrating Holi!

Graphic Organizer

| | Holi: A Moral Story | Holi: A Love Story | Holi: A Harvest Story |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Who | | | |
| What | | | |
| When | | | |
| Where | | | |
| Why | | | |
| How | | | |
| Rituals | | | |



2025 Holi Toolkit

Celebrating Holi!

KWL Chart

| What I Know | What I Want to Know | What I Learned |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |



2025 Holi Toolkit

Color Vowel® Organizer

| Green Tea | | Blue Moon | | Silver Pin | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| green feelings evil | wheat eve beats | beauty music food | | India spring | Hindu Vishnu Krishna |
| Gray Day | | Brown Cow | | Red Dress | |
| ancient celebration Holi Hai! | namaste strangers paint | powder shouts | | festival celebrate legend | friends recognize decorated |
| Purple Shirt | | Rose Coat | | Turquoise Toy | |
| worship first perfect | | rangoli Holi floating | roasted holak cold | noisy toys noisemakers | |
| Cup of Mustard | | Orange Door | | Black Cat | |
| colorful agni | fun love | corn | | gather companion family | |
| | | Olive Sock | | | |
| | | harvest water subcontinent | offering gula pani | | |

The Color Vowel® Organizer: Hindu Holi © 2019 English Language Training Solutions, Santa Fe, NM. www.colorvowelchart.org. Permission granted to store, print and/or copy this page for educational purposes only.



2025 Holi Toolkit

Rangoli Coloring Activity

Rangoli is an art form in which patterns are created on the floor or the ground using materials such as colored rice, dry flour, colored sand or flower petals. They are usually made during Diwali, Holi, and other Hindu festivals.

Directions

Step 1: Listen

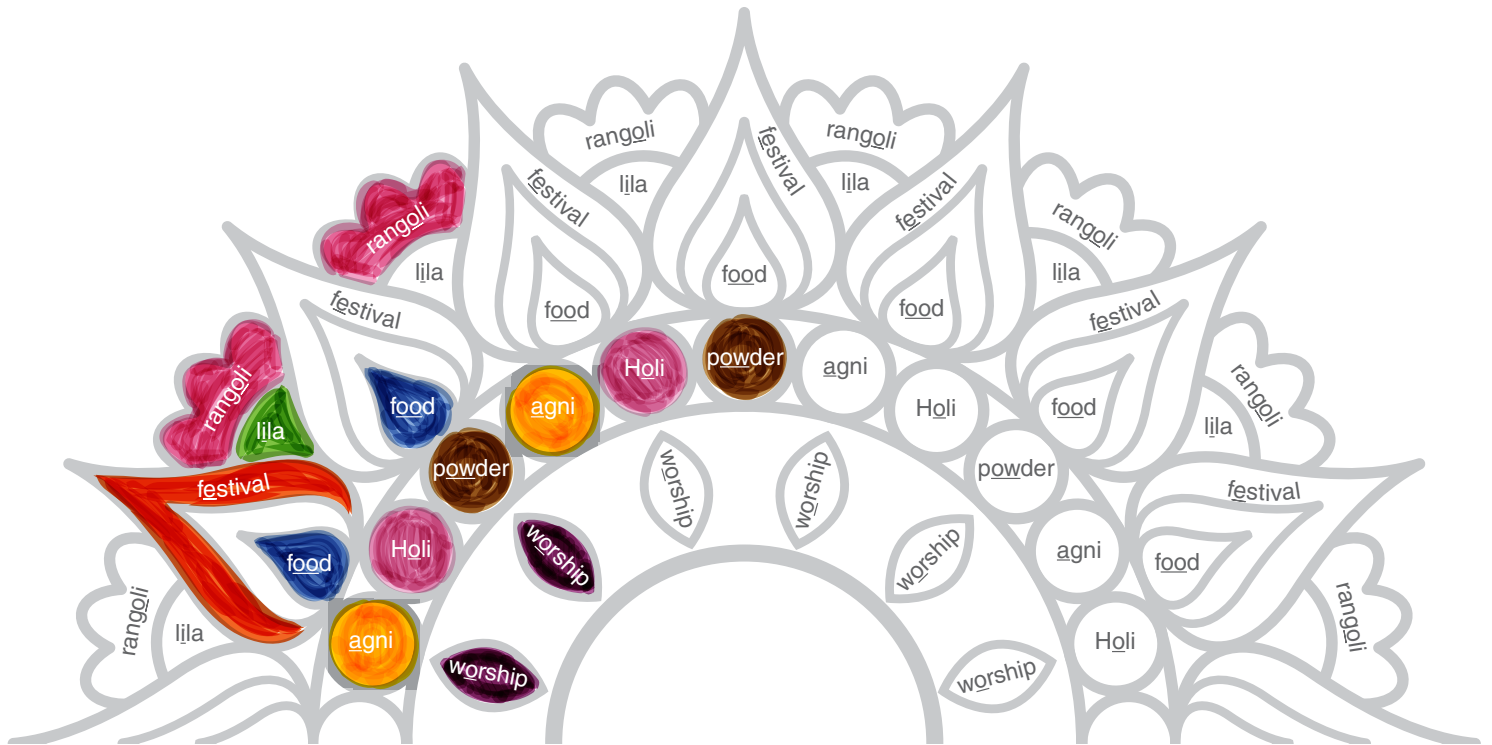
Listen to the teacher say the word and repeat the word with a full-body gesture to indicate stress.

Step 2: Identify & Find

Identify the color vowel, then find the corresponding pencil or crayon (e.g. "lila, lila, GREEN TEA, lila!").

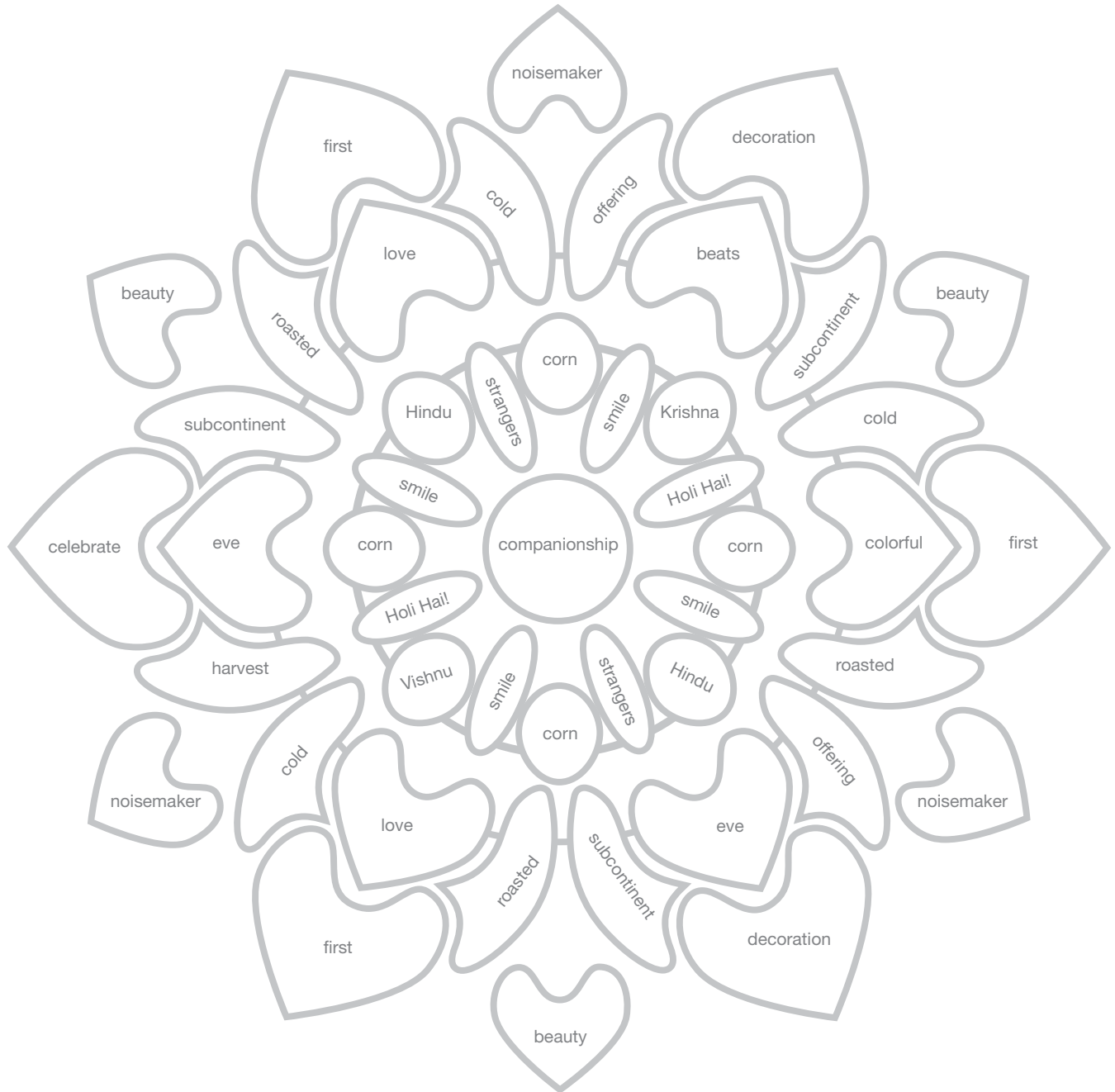
Step 3: Locate and Color

Locate the printed word on the *rangoli* and color in the areas accordingly.



2025 Holi Toolkit

Rangoli Coloring Activity



2025 Holi Toolkit

Holi Haiku

Haiku ('hī, kōō) is a form of poetry which originated in Japan and translates to 'light verse.'

The goal of a Haiku poem is to describe something in a concise and vivid manner. There are several structural rules when writing a Haiku poem as they must equal 17 syllables. The first line must have five (5) syllables, the second line must have seven (7), and the third line must have five (5) syllables. Often, Haikus refer to seasons of the year and use adjectives to appeal to the five senses (smell, taste, touch, sight, and hearing). It is best to avoid similes or metaphors when writing Haikus and instead to focus on descriptions and feelings.

Objectives

- ▶ Identify the form and structure of Haiku poetry
- ▶ Articulate literary elements, such as mood and dominant impression

Directions

Step 1: Brainstorm Words

Reading back through The Stories of Holi reading primer, identify words that describe Holi and write the accompanying syllable in the box next to it.

| | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Step 2: Sensory Words

List any words that you think describe Holi and what you think the experience may feel, smell, sound and look like and write the syllable of each word next to it. Continue until you have developed a word bank to help you write your Haiku.

| | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |



2025 Holi Toolkit

Holi Haiku

Step 3: Start Writing!

Once you have identified all of your words, you can begin to write your Haiku!
Use the following lines to help you remember the specific syllable structure.

Haiku Title:

Line 1 (5 syllables):

Line 2 (7 syllables):

Line 3 (5 syllables):

Haiku Title:

Line 1 (5 syllables):

Line 2 (7 syllables):

Line 3 (5 syllables):



2025 Holi Toolkit

Got the hang of it? Try writing a few more. Have fun
and be creative!

Haiku 1 Title:

Line 1 (5 syllables):

Line 2 (7 syllables):

Line 3 (5 syllables):

Haiku 2 Title:

Line 1 (5 syllables):

Line 2 (7 syllables):

Line 3 (5 syllables):

Haiku 3 Title:

Line 1 (5 syllables):

Line 2 (7 syllables):

Line 3 (5 syllables):



2025 Holi Toolkit

Roy G. Biv Holi Initialism Activity

Holi celebrations around this joyful day include throwing colored powder (*gula*) or colored water (*pani*) on one another. This creates a rainbow of colors in the air and on people's clothes as they celebrate. In these activities, we will learn more about color and the role it plays in Hindu celebrations.

Objectives

- ▶ Synthesize knowledge about Holi
- ▶ Identify the basics of color

Directions:

Part 1: Warm Up

Use these questions to elicit discussion and determine how much color knowledge already exists:

- ▶ What colors are in the rainbow?
- ▶ How are colors created?
- ▶ What is the difference between a hue and a pigment?
- ▶ What are warm colors and what are cool colors?
- ▶ What are primary colors?
- ▶ What are secondary colors?

Part 2: Learning About Color

The following resources provide additional information about color:

- ▶ [Basic Color Theory](#)
- ▶ [Learn about how the color wheel was invented](#)
- ▶ [Take the Pantone® Color IQ Test online](#)
- ▶ [Watch this video by OK GO on primary colors](#)
- ▶ [Listen to this TedTalk, "What's It Like To Hear Color"](#)

Part 3: Color and its Significance

Color plays a significant role in Holi as described in the Holi Fact Sheet and reading primer. In fact, colors have a deeper meaning and importance within Hinduism, as they are used for cultural celebrations,

religious ceremonies, and signifying the essential qualities of Deities. On the next page, you will find a short synopsis of each color and the role it plays in the Hindu religion.

Part 4: ROYGBIV Initialism

The initialism ROYGBIV or Roy G. Biv describes the sequence of colors or hues that comprise a rainbow: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet. As Holi is a colorful festival, use the initialism to come up with sentences that describe Holi using each of the first initials of ROYGBIV as inspiration.



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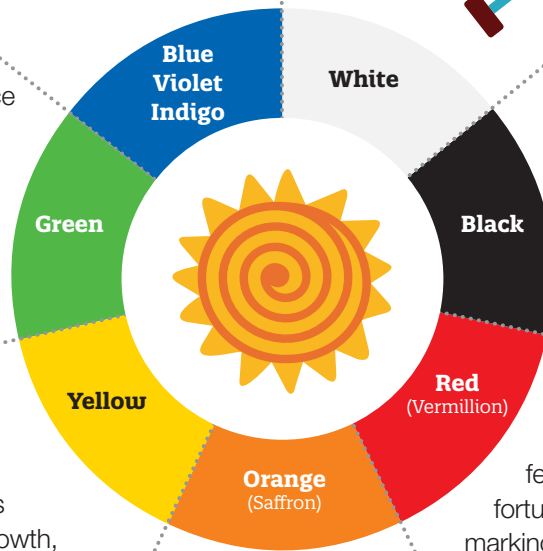
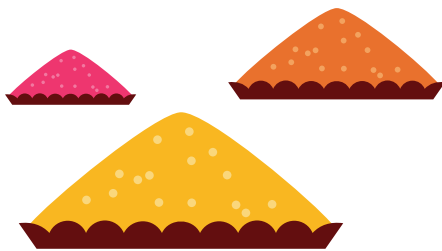
Part 3: Color and Its Significance

The color of the sky and of the sea, blue represents depth and cosmic order. The guardian of the waters, Varuna, shows Hindus that just like water cycles from rain into streams, into rivers, into the sea, and changing into vapor to form clouds and start raining again, so too, all beings go through cycles. We should try to be

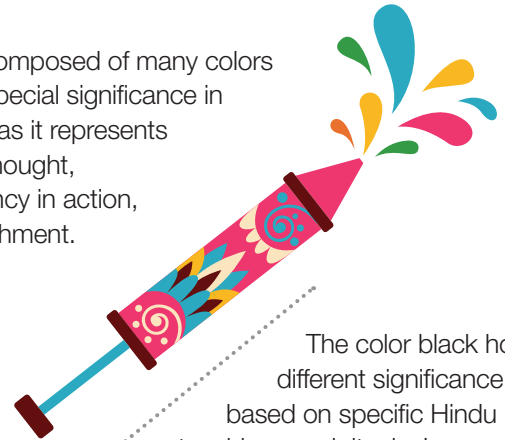
compassionate and kind to people as they go through the cycles of life.

Green is the color of mother Earth, one of the central Deities across all Hindu traditions. In all Hindu ceremonies, there is an abundance of green—from the medicinal herbs and leaves, to the beautiful bamboo and banana plants. It reminds us we are part of the global ecosystem, and we should aspire to be responsible children of mother Earth.

Yellow represents the color of the sun in Hindu teachings. It is also associated with progress, growth, and happiness. This springtime color is also seen as the color of lightning, which signifies discernment in Hindu legends.



White is composed of many colors and has special significance in Hinduism as it represents purity of thought, transparency in action, and detachment.



The color black holds different significance based on specific Hindu teachings and rituals. In some contexts, black is seen as a symbol of mysteriousness and can be associated with secrets. In other contexts, black protects against malevolent spirits and energy. Many Hindus place a small black dot behind the ear or on the chin as a symbolic form of protection.

The color red is associated with female power, love, and good fortune. Hindu people commonly wear a red marking on their foreheads during ceremonies and festivals to honor the soul within, show devotion to God, or to increase good fortune. Married women may sometimes also wear the color red in the parting of their hair as one of the Hindu symbols of marriage. Red flags are used on some Hindu temples and in shrines to represent the presence of the Divine.



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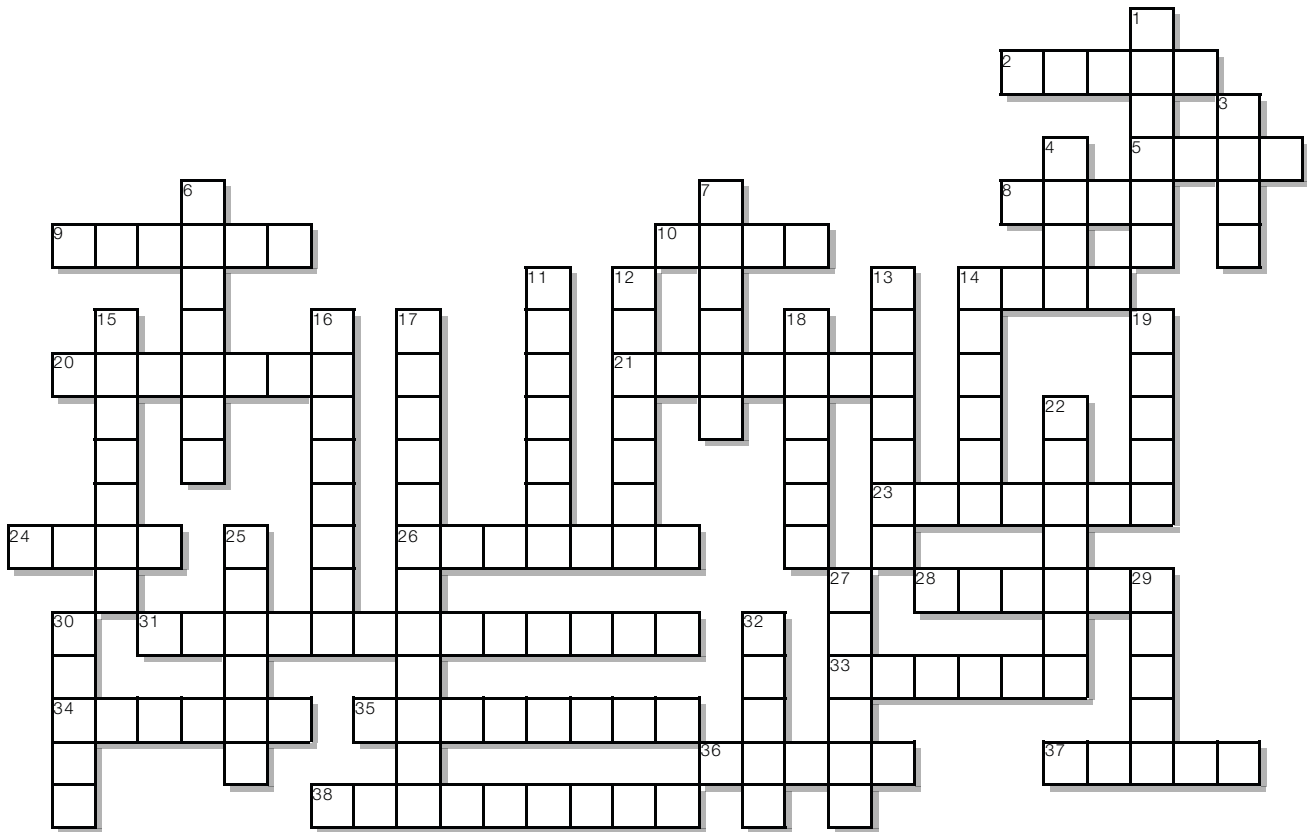
Part 4: Roy G. Biv Initialism Activity

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Holi Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2 What to do with the colored powder
- 5 Victory of ____ over evil
- 8 Spring is the season of ____ and new beginnings
- 9 Known as the Festival of _____
- 10 Incorporates all senses
- 14 Hindi word for water
- 20 Holi's here
- 21 A colorful design made of paint
- 23 Full moon day
- 24 Holika was not good
- 26 Traditional Hindu greeting
- 28 The time of year when Holi occurs
- 31 Friends and family provide

- 33 Celebrated by _____
- 34 Holds religious services during Holi
- 35 The ____ of Colors
- 36 People often wear
- 37 Roasted grain
- 38 Group of people

DOWN

- 1 Holi encourages people to forgive and _____
- 3 Harvest dies in _____ temperatures
- 4 Holi is synchronized with the _____
- 6 A large open-air fire used as part of a celebration
- 7 Saved Prahlad
- 11 Often pictured on swings
- 12 Start of Spring
- 13 The ____ of good over evil
- 14 Throwing colored
- 15 Another word for honor
- 16 Indians outside of India
- 17 India is a
- 18 First celebration of Holi was in _____ century CE
- 19 Holi originated here
- 22 Krishna and Vishnu
- 25 Celebrate with friends and ____
- 27 First evening is known as ____ Holi
- 29 Hindi word for powder
- 30 Alternative to colored powder
- 32 Krishna's special friend



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Holi Greetings!

Holi is a time of celebration with loved ones. Help spread the joy of Holi with these cards! Just print, cut, color, and give out to your family and friends! You can even mail them!

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**HAPPY
HOLI!**

Holi is here.
Colors in the air.
Red, green, yellow
and blue,
I want to celebrate
Holi with you!



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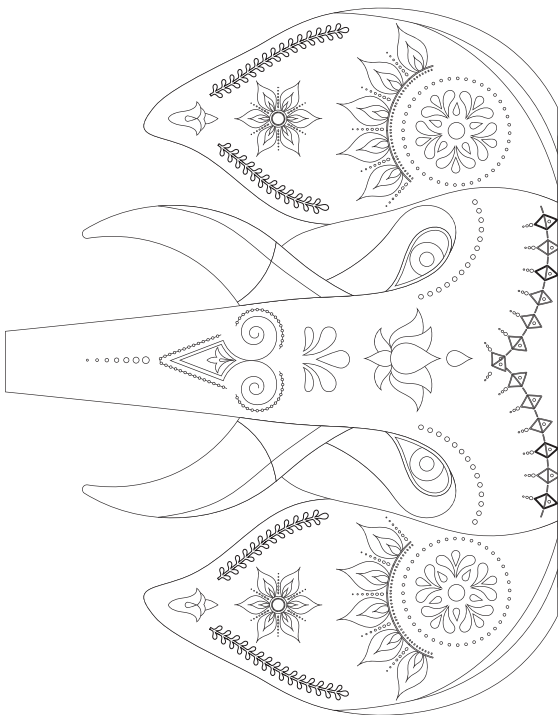
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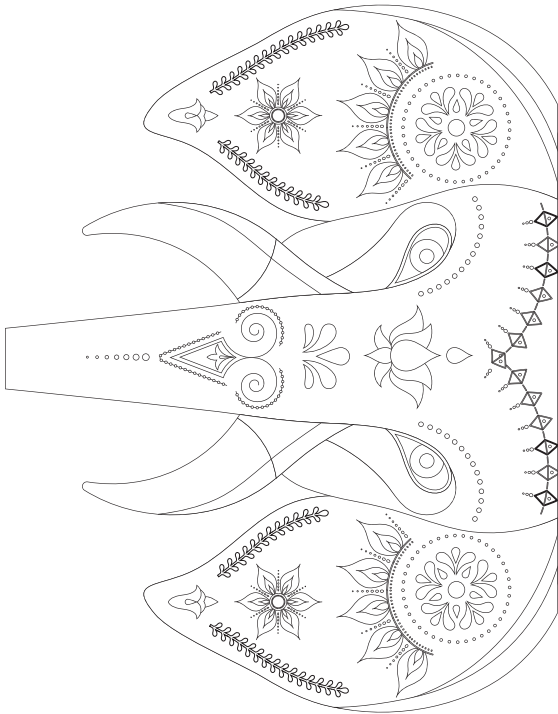


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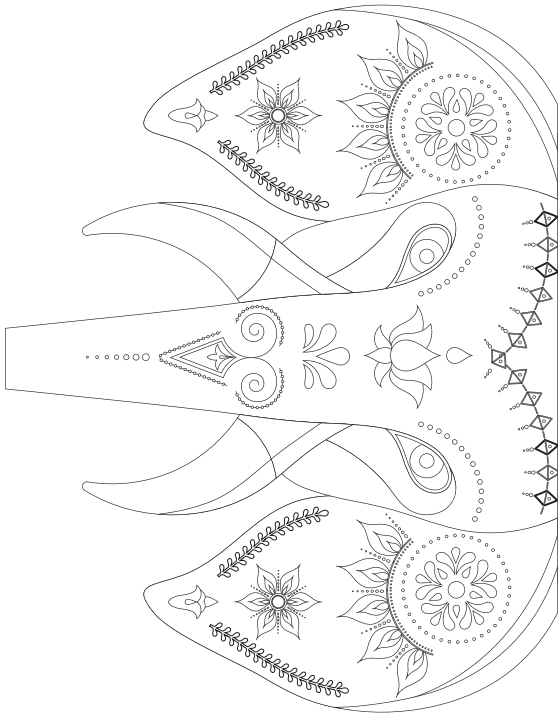
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Holi Toolkit Solutions

ROYGBIV Warm-up Answers

What colors are in the rainbow?

- There are seven colors in the rainbow because water droplets break white sunlight into red, orange, yellow, green, indigo, blue and violet. Hence, ROYGBIV

How are colors created?

- Color is created in two ways. In the light spectrum, the more colors you add, the brighter the light until you get white. This is the additive method. In printing, the more colors added, the darker the color gets until it turns black, which is referred to as the subtractive method.

What is the difference between a hue and a pigment?

- Hue refers to the name of a specific color. Pigment is a material that changes the color of reflected or transmitted light

What are warm colors and what are cool colors?

- Red, orange, and yellow are warm colors and can be remembered by the colors represented in the sun. Green, blue, indigo, and violet are cool colors and can be remembered by the colors represented in the sea.

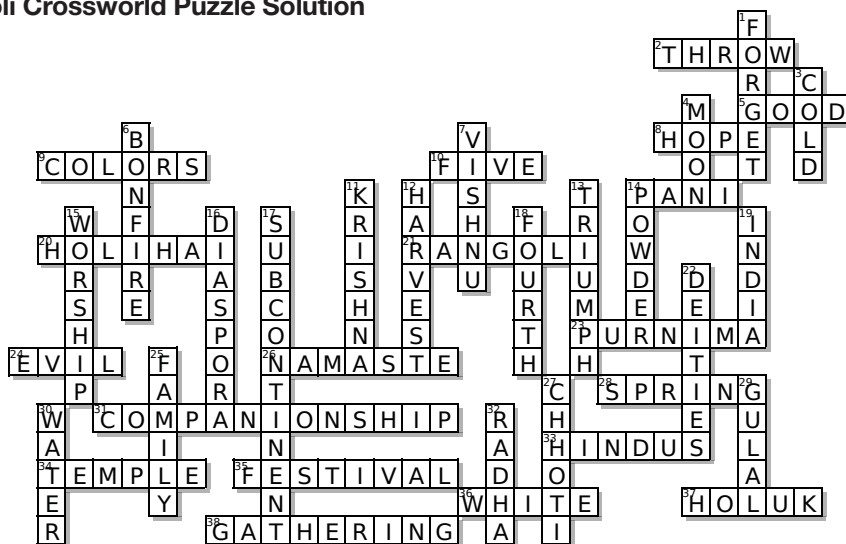
What are the primary colors?

- Red, Yellow and Blue

What are secondary colors?

- Colors that are made by a mixture of primary hues in equal parts
- Orange (red + yellow)
- Green (yellow + blue)
- Purple (red + blue)

Holi Crossworld Puzzle Solution



References

<http://www.wou.edu/wp/exhibits/files/2015/07/hinduism.pdf>

[Sherwin Williams](#)

[Colors of Worship for Hindus](#)



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The Hindu American Foundation (HAF) is an educational and advocacy organization established in 2003.

HAF focuses on educating the public about Hindus and Hinduism and advocating for policies and practices that ensure the well-being of all people and the planet. We work directly with educators and journalists to ensure accurate understanding of Hindus and Hinduism. We also work with policymakers and key stakeholders to champion issues of concern to Hindu Americans, including defending civil and human rights and protecting all living beings. Inspired by our guiding principles and Hindu teachings, HAF promotes dignity, mutual respect, and pluralism.

HAF is a non-partisan, non-profit tax-exempt public charity pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3.

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